Claims

1. A water purification apparatus having an inlet and an outlet, and at least one water purification means thereinbetween, wherein the outlet includes at least a first release means and a second water release means, the first release means being operable at a first flow rate, and the second release means being operable at a second flow rate.

2. A water purification apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the outlet includes further water release means.

3. A water purification apparatus as claimed in Claims 1 or 2 wherein the rate of release of water through the outlet is controlled by the first flow rate, or the second flow rate, or a combination thereof.

4. A water purification apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims wherein the first flow rate is different to the second flow rate.

5. A water purification apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims wherein the water release means operate in parallel.

6. A water purification apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims wherein the

water release means provide alternative flow paths for water through the outlet.

7. A water purification apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims wherein each water release means is independently controllable from the or every other water release means.

8. A water purification apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims wherein at least one water release means is operable at a relatively slow flow rate and at least one other water release means is operable at a relatively fast flow rate.

9. A water purification apparatus as claimed in Claim 8 wherein the at least one water release means is operable at a relatively slow flow rate of up to 0.1 litres per minute, the at least one other water release means is operable at a relatively fast flow rate of up to 2 litres per minute.

10. A water purification apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims wherein the operation and/or flow rate of at least one water release means is wholly or substantially dependant upon the operation and/or flow rate through at least one other water release means.

11. A water purification apparatus as claimed in any one of Claims 8 to 10 wherein the operation of the relatively fast flow rate water means is dependent upon operation of the relatively slow flow rate water release means.

12. A water purification apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims wherein the apparatus includes one or more water pumps.

13. A water purification apparatus as claimed in Claim 12 wherein the or each pump is linked with one or more of the water release means.

14. A water purification apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims wherein the water release means are operable automatically.

15. A water purification apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims wherein the apparatus includes a control means for controlling the outlet flow and flow rate through all the release means.

16. A water purification apparatus as claimed in Claim 15 wherein the control means is pre-programmed to calculate the rate of flow through each release means.

17. A water purification apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims wherein the degree of operation of each water release means

is dependent upon the amount or volume of water to be dispensed through the outlet.

18. A water purification apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims wherein the apparatus includes a recirculation system to provide recirculation around at least a part of the apparatus of any water treated by the or each water purification means.

19. A water purification apparatus as claimed in Claim 18 wherein the recirculation unit includes one or more pressure-sustaining means to maintain outlet pressure.

20. A water purification apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims wherein the apparatus includes one or more alarm means to provide a signal concerning the flow rate of the outlet and/or the flow rate of one or more of the water release means.

21. A water purification apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims adapted to provide a pre-set volume of water by automatic operation of one or each relevant water release means.

22. A water purification apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims wherein the release means are valves.

23. A method for dispensing water from a water purification apparatus as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 20 wherein the dispense of water from the outlet is controlled through at least one of the water release means.

24. A method of dispensing water as claimed in Claim 23 wherein the apparatus includes a pump which is automatically controlled by a control means.

25. A method for dispensing water as claimed in Claim 23 wherein the water is provided by a first water release means having a relatively fast flow rate followed by a second water release means having a relatively slow flow rate.

26. A method of dispensing water as claimed in Claim 24 wherein the second water release means provides an initial relatively slow dispensement prior to the dispensement from the first release means.

27. A water purification apparatus substantially as herein described and with reference to Figure 1.